

H-1B DEMONSTRATION GRANTEE ONE-PAGER

Grantee: Berkshire County Regional Employment Board
Round: 2
Region: 1
Grant Amount: \$2,003,164
Contact: Heather Putnam
Telephone: (413) 442-7177
Fax: (413) 448-2801

Duration of Grant: The period of performance shall be August 1, 2000 to July 30, 2002.

Population Served: Employees of General Dynamics Defense Systems (GDDS) and GDDS individuals will be provided technical training. In addition, GDDS and non-GDS individuals will receive soft skills training.

Geographic Area Served: Berkshire County

Unemployment Rate:	<u>Seasonally Adjusted</u>	May 2000	April 2000	May 1999
	Massachusetts	2.5%	2.8%	3.2%

	<u>Not Seasonally Adjusted</u>	May 2000	April 2000	May 1999
	Pittsfield	3.0%	3.5%	4.0%

Targeted Industries/

Jobs/Skills: Systems analysis and programming, mechanical engineering, electrical/electronic engineering, engineering occupations, and other computer related occupations, as well as soft skills training.

Uniqueness of Proposal: The company would conduct the training in their facilities. The proposal indicates that the training can be sustained after the grant by transferring training to colleges and universities. The proposal describes the migration of workers from this area and the need for workers in engineering and computer related occupations.

Partnerships: Berkshire County Regional Employment Board will partner with the Corporation of Business Work and Learning (CBWL), GDDS, Publications Research Group (PRG), regional colleges, Berkshire Works (the One-Stop career center for Berkshire County) and the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts's Office of Lifelong Learning (OL3).

THE NEED:

As Berkshire County companies are changing and new companies are forming, there is a critical need to train, employ, and retain a workforce that can master a variety of tasks, recognize opportunities, and adapt to shifting market conditions.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PROJECT:

GDDS will provide technical training in three fields which are in critical need of qualified workers: software design engineers, systems integration engineers, and hardware design engineers. Due to the complexity of the work, soft skills training will also be offered in areas such as facilitation, communication, innovation, problem solving, and decision making. GDDS will draw upon in-house technical experts, selected external training providers, and teaming/partnership arrangements with colleges and universities to provide the training.